

D A I L Y R E V I E W

STATINTL

of the

B A G H D A D P R E S S

Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Saturday, January 6, 1951
Sunday, January 7, 1951
Monday, January 8, 1951

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NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH RUSSIA

According to Iraqi commercial circles, the Soviet Union is desirous of promoting commercial relations with Iraq as may appear from the contact of the Russian Consul in Baghdad with the DG of Date Board Association. This activity is not confined to Iraq alone as Egypt also has entered into an agreement with Russia for Trade exchange. Syria and Lebanon have also demonstrated such activity.

Foreign political sources in Damascus predict that Russia will shortly launch a peaceful campaign in the Middle East with the object of convincing the Arab States to maintain neutrality, adding that the Soviet Union may propose to the Arab States the conclusion of a non-aggression Pact in the event of a further deterioration of the international situation. This new Russian trend takes place before the ALPC meeting in Cairo. These sources say that the report of Arab diplomats in Moscow being approached on this matter have been confirmed. (Al-Akhbar. 1/6)

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FORMER PRIME MINISTERS PLEAD FAIR TREATMENT OF DR. AMIN RUEHA

Their Excellencies Hikmet Suleiman, Taha Al-Hashimi, Muzahim Al-Pachachi, and Towfiq As-Suwaidi have sent a telegram to the Syrian President, Prime Minister, and President of the Lower House pleading them to give Dr. Amin Rueha a fair treatment in view of his loyal services to the Arab cause. (Al-Akhbar. 1/6). 525

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IRAQ AND POINT IV AID

Referring to Point IV aid to Iraq, says that Senator Francis Green has been delegated by the American Congress on a study-mission of the Middle East. Mr. Green, who is coming to Iraq shortly, will discuss with the Iraqi Government the ways and means of benefiting under this Aid. (Al-Akhbar. 1/6) 1438

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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JORDAN CALLS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

The Jordanian Premier speaking about the Arab collective Security Pact said that this is not in the interest of the Arab States because it lacks the means of defense and attack. He explained that the Big Powers cannot today remain alone in the field and urged the Arab States to depart from the isolation life and join an international alliance which would recognize fully the sovereignty and independence of the Arab States. (Al-Hawadith. 1/6)

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CHINA, AN AGGRESSOR COUNTRY

Speaking about the United States Note to over 20 UN member nations for considering China as aggressor if she fails to respond to the UN Cease Fire Order, says that Egypt has taken a similar decision, and believes that the other Arab States will act likewise. (Al-Sha'b. 1/7)

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FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

HE (Mustafa Al-Umari) has been entrusted with certain functions of the Prime Minister including attendance of Parliament sessions in his behalf; HE (Omar Nadehi), with internal affairs; and HE Mohammed Hassan Kubba, with the Awqaf (Religious Endowments) Affairs, according to a Council of Ministers' decision (Al-Alam Ul-Arabi. 1/7)

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BAN ON EXPORT OF BRITISH ARMY SURPLUS MATERIAL

The Higher Supply Committee has decided to ban export of British Army surplus material from Iraq, except by a licence. (Al-Alam Ul-Arabi. 1/7)

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KING IBN SAUD'S CORONATION DAY

HM King Ibn Saud has cancelled all ceremonies on the Anniversary of Coronation Day (January 8) in view of the present international situation. (Al-Sha'b. 1/8)

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IRAQI.....

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IRAQI HIGHER DEFENSE COUNCIL

Beirut radio reports that the Iraqi Defense Council held its first meeting since the Palestine war. This indicates that Baghdad has received some reports about the prevailing international situation. (Al-Umma. 1/8)

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Liwa Al-Istiqlal (Monday) reports that a meeting was held yesterday at the Ministry of Defense attended, among others, by the Prime Minister, Ministers of Finance and of Communications and Works, HE Mustafa Al-Umari and HE Omar Nadhmi.

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HE SHAKIR AL WADI INTERVIEWED

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the Iraqi Army, Az-Zaman interviewed HE (Shakir Al-Wadi, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs. 425

In reply to a question about the Iraqi Army, HE said that he is striving to strengthen the Army and increase its efficiency, as outlined in the Speech from the Throne. HRH himself is concerned with the welfare of the Army, he said.

HE denied rumors that Iraq has connected certain Eastern countries with the object of concluding a pact. This was also refuted by the Premier himself, he added.

Asked for his views about cooperation between the Arab States and the Oriental countries, HE said that this demands complete collaboration among the Arab States, and if cooperation among the Arab States and the Islamic countries and India is realized, it would be in the interest of all those countries.

Asked about American aid to Iraq, he said that this aid is still under consideration by the appropriate Iraqi authorities, adding "we like to make use of this aid and we are in great need of plain technical assistance which does not put us vis-a-vis commitments contrary to our prestige."

In a statement to the Arab News Agency, HE said that the Premier will attend the ALPC meeting in Cairo. The Committee in the first place, he continued, will discuss the attitude of the Arab States towards the prevailing international situation. Speaking about the Collective Security Pact, he said that the Arab States have agreed on the amendments proposed by Iraq, and expressed the hope that this Pact will lead to good results. He concludes that Iraq is very anxious to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and to stand at one vis-a-vis the international developments. (Az-Zaman. 1/7)

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HE NADHMI

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HE NAJIB AL RAWI CALLS FOR NON-PARTICIPATION OF ARAB STATES IN
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR BUREAU CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN

HE Najib Al-Rawi, Iraqi Minister in Cairo stated, following an interview with Acting Egyptian Foreign Minister that they had both discussed the agenda of the forthcoming ALPC meeting. It is understood that Iraq has in a memorandum to the League Secretariat, called on the Arab States to refrain from participating in the Conference of the International Labor Bureau to be held in Tehran because of Israel's representation in that Conference. (Al-Nadhir. 1/8)

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PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED

Parliament was adjourned until Wednesday owing to lack of quorum in Saturday's meeting. (Az-Zaman. 1/7)

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STATEMENT BY THE FINANCE MINISTER

Asked for his views on the reported recommendation by the Higher Supply Committee for a survey of stored merchandise in Iraq, HE said that this is out of the question at present. The DG of Imports, he said, is concerned with importing essential commodities to Iraq to prevent rising in prices. He is endeavoring to form the Import Company in which the government will invest not less than one-third of the company's capital.

Asked for his views on the paper shortage, he said that contacts have been made with several countries, including Russia, for the import of newsprint. (Al-Akhbar. 1/7)

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